ONE might, further, make use of the works of Arnoul Graban, and of Simon Graban his brother. Dante Alighieri, Florentine, as says my aforementioned good friend Brother Rene Masse, makes honourable mention of the said Arnoul Graban. And of this Arnoul I have seen, in the Church of the Bernardins at Paris, a picture wherein there is a prayer to the Virgin Mary which begins, 'En Protestant,' and the first letters of the verses of the last couplet contain his name and surname which are *Arnoldus Grabans me.*[11] For him who could obtain the works of Nesson, 'twould be a great joy to use the pleasant language which is contained therein. I have seen of them naught save a prayer to the Virgin Mary, which is printed in the first impression of the *Calendrier des Bergiers.* The last impression does not contain it, I know not why. Alain Chartier and George Chastelain, Chevalier, are authors well worthy to be read often, for they are very full of most dignified and heroic language. The *Lunettes des Princes,* too, is excellent for the graceful language that is contained therein. One might also make use of the fine Chronicles of France which my lord Cretin, lately Chronicler to the King, has written so well that neither Homer, nor Virgil, nor Dante ever surpassed him in excellence. And to show how much of grace our French language has when it is well controlled, I will set down here in passing a rondeau which, it is said, a woman of eminence in all good qualities, Madame Dentragues, made & composed. Also two useful little lessons whereof I know not the authors; and I will commend goodly minds to other excellent French works, there to do what Virgil did of old in reading the works of Ennius: *Extrahere aurum de stercore*—Extract gold from dung; and of Homer: *Extorquere clauam de manu Herculis*—Snatch the cudgel from the hand of Hercules.*

**In classical Latin 'Clavam Herculi extorquere' was a proverbial expression meaning something impossible of accomplishment. Both sentences are from Ælius Donatus's commentary on Virgil.*

The rondeau is as follows:—

POUR le meilleur et plus seur chemin prandre,
Ie te conseille a Dieu aymer aprandre;
Estre loyal de bouche, cueur, & mains;
Ne te vanter, peu moucquer, parler moings,
Plusque ne doibs scauoir ou entreprandre.

FORS tes subiectz ne te chaille reprandre,
Trop haultains faictz ne te amuse a comprendre,
Et cherche paix entre tous les humains.

Pour le meilleur.

VNG don promis ne faiz iamais attendre,
Et a scauoir sans cesser doibz pretendre:
Peu de gens fays de ton vouloir certains;
A ton amy ne dissimule ou tains,
Bien me plaira si a ce veulx entendre,
Pour le meilleur.

The first of the said lessons is as follows:

SI tu as maistre, sers le bien,
Dis bien de luy, garde le sien,
Son secret scele, quoy quil face,
Et soyes humble deuant sa face.

The other lesson:

NE souffre a ta femme pour rien
Mettre son pied dessus le tien:
Le lendemain la bonne beste
Le vouldra mettre sus ta teste.[12]

IF it be true that all things have had a beginning, certain it is that the Greek language, and the Latin as well, were for long unpolished and without rules of grammar, as our own is to-day; but virtuous and studious writers took pains and diligently strove to reduce them to fixed rules, the better to put them to worthy use in writing and committing to memory the useful branches of knowledge, to the profit and honour of the public weal.

IN the time of the father of Latin poets, Ennius, who said in his rude language, before the Latin tongue was purified,—

Vulturis in syluis miserum mandebat homonem;*

and in the time of the poet philosopher Lucretius, who said in his first book,—

Visceribus viscus gigni sanguenque creari;†

and also in the time of the comic poet Plautus, reputed and called the favourite of the Muses, who said, in his comedy *Casina,*—

Non ergo istud verbum empsitem titiuillitio,—‡

**Annales,* II, 33.

† Tory printed 'sanguemque'; but as Lucretius (I, 837) wrote 'sanguenque,' which is the form that Tory criticises, the word is so spelled here.

‡ 'Casina,' II, 5, 39. Commentators and editors are not agreed as to the strange word 'empsitem.'

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